



NOTES FROM THE JAPANTOWN TASK FORCE LAND USE COMMITTEE MEETING

1765 SUTTER STREET
TUESDAY, JULY 7, 2015

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Paul Wermer, David Ishida, Glynis Nakahara, Jon Osaki, Alice Kawahatsu

STAFF PRESENT:

Bob Hamaguchi, Greg Marutani

OTHERS PRESENT:

Richard Hashimoto, Karen Kai, Robert Rusky

Meeting began at 6:10 p.m.

JAPANTOWN NEIGHBORHOOD COMMERCIAL DISTRICT (NCD):

After reviewing the latest revision of the draft Japantown Neighborhood Commercial District (NCD) (Attachment A) it was the consensus of the Committee to present it to the JTF Board to request the Planning Commission approve the recommendations.

DRAFT CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING SUITABILITY OF PROPOSED PROJECT:

After a good discussion about the draft it was decided that Paul would “tweak” the draft and re-arrange the criteria to simplify the threshold at which the JTF would or would not take a position on a proposed project.

JAPANTOWN FOUNDATION REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL:

It was suggested to consider seeking funds to conduct a thorough assessment of the needs within the Japan Center Garage Corporation as well as the Peace Plaza so a determination can be made as to what the costs would be to refurbish and/or repair each of these areas.

DESIGN GUIDELINES

Glynis reported that progress is being made, they do not want to be too prescriptive, rather provide broad recommendations.

LANDMARKING THE PAGODA AND PEACE PLAZA:

Richard Hashimoto indicated he had the documents and plans from the period of the lawsuit that was filed by the City against the contractor (and won). Should he find them he will provide access to the drawings to JTF staff.

It is the position of JTF that a community meeting would not be scheduled until the meeting of the three City Departments and JTF has taken place.

GEARY BRT WEBSTER STREET BRIDGE

Paul said he would recommend that JTF send a letter regarding the concrete wall appearance of 1801 Buchanan. While the MTA staff stresses the need to remove the Webster Street Bridge for the proposed Geary BRT, it was reported that there are others in the community especially parents and staff at Rosa Parks Elementary School and Nihonmachi Little Friends communicate their views to the MTA staff.

UPDATES

Paul reported that at this time there are no further updates on 1481 Post Street, 1881 Sutter, or 1801 Buchanan at this time.

Bob Hamaguchi reported that he has not been successful in scheduling a meeting with Reverend Townsend to discuss 1481 Post; he will make further attempts to meet with the reverend.

The next meeting will be Tuesday for August 11, 2015 at 1765 Sutter Street.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.